

Serial No. 09/904,569

REMARKS

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-6, 9-12 and 14 is acknowledged with appreciation. By this amendment the features of allowable claims 2 and 9 have been incorporated in the respective parent claims 1 and 8, and claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled. Claims 5 and 11 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion to overcome the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10-12 and 14, as amended, are believed to be allowable.

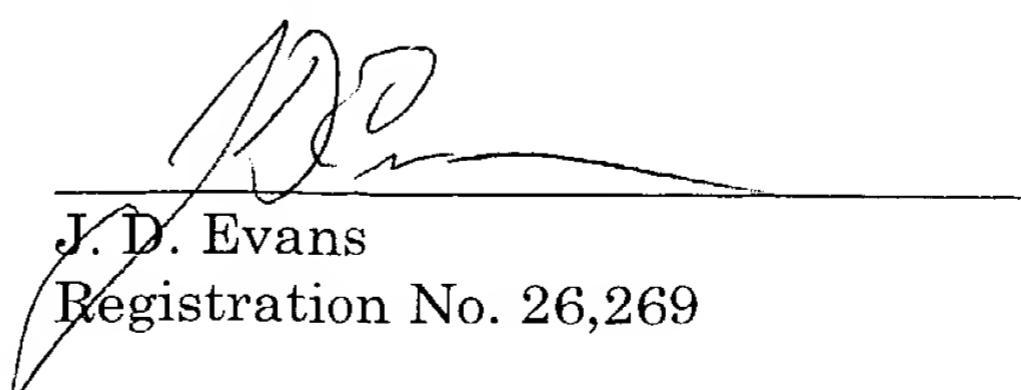
Reinstatement and allowance are also respectfully requested for withdrawn claims 7, 13 and 15. As pointed out in the Office Action of August 8, 2002, upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form. Thus, dependent claims 7, 13 and 15 are believed to be properly allowable with their respective parent generic claims 1, 12 and 8.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #178/49971).

Respectfully submitted,

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J. D. Evans
Registration No. 26,269

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844